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United Nations Forum on Forests
Third session
Geneva, 26 May-6 June 2003
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests:
   (a) Progress in implementation:
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   (ii) Forest health and productivity;
   (iii) Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs;
   (b) Means of implementation (finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management) as a cross-cutting issue, considered in the context of sub-items 3 (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) above.
4. Common items for each session:
   (a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue;
   (b) Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination;
   (c) Country experience and lessons learned;
   (d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation;
   (e) Intersessional work, including further discussion concerning the ad hoc expert groups;
   (f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting;
   (g) Promoting public participation;

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(h) National forest programmes;

(i) Trade;

(j) Enabling environment.

5. Dates and venue of the fourth session of the Forum.

6. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum.

7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairperson and such other officers as may be required (see E/5975/Rev.1). According to Council resolution E/2000/35 establishing the Forum, the Bureau shall consist of a Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom will also act as the Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

On 15 March 2002, the Forum elected Gustavo Eduardo Ainchil (Argentina), Peter Csoka (Hungary), Conceição Ferreira (Portugal), Hossein Moeini Meybodi (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka (Uganda) as members of the Bureau for its third session. It postponed the election of the Chairperson and Rapporteur to a later meeting.

The Forum may wish to elect the nominated Chairperson, Hossein Moeini Meybodi (Islamic Republic of Iran), as Chairperson and another member of the Bureau as Rapporteur for its third session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

In its decision 2002/301, the Council took note of the report of the Forum on its second session and approved the provisional agenda for its third session.

The Forum may wish to adopt the agenda and the organization of work for the session proposed by the Secretariat.

3. Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work,[1] the Forum at its session will address progress in the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests related to the following elements: (a) economic aspects of forests; (b) forest health and

productivity; and (c) maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs. The Forum will address the means of implementation, including finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management, in the context of those elements, as consistent with Council decision 2002/301.

In the documentation for the item listed below, for each of the elements to be addressed at the third session of the Forum, the Forum secretariat has considered the following common items (see item 4) as relevant: country experience and lessons learned; emerging issues relevant to country implementation; monitoring, assessment and reporting; promoting public participation; national forest programmes; trade; and enabling environment. The IPF/IFF proposals for action related to trade are discussed in the report of the Secretary-General on economic aspects of forests.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on economic aspects of forests (E/CN.18/2003/__)

Report of the Secretary-General on forest health and productivity (E/CN.18/2003/__)

Report of the Secretary-General on maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs (E/CN.18/2003/__)

4. Common items for each session

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work, the Forum will address the following common items at each of its sessions: (a) multi-stakeholder dialogue; (b) enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, inter alia, with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; (c) country experience and lessons learned; (d) emerging issues relevant to country implementation; (e) intersessional work; (f) monitoring, assessment and reporting; (g) promoting public participation; (h) national forest programmes; (i) trade; and (j) enabling environment.

The Forum may wish to consider the following common items that are not considered in the context of item 3 (see above) as self-standing agenda items: multi-stakeholder dialogue; enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, inter alia, with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; and intersessional work, including further discussion concerning the ad hoc expert groups. The common item — monitoring, assessment and reporting — has been addressed in the context of item 3, as well as a self-standing sub-item (4 (f)) to consider decision 2/1 of the Forum.[2]

(a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue

The Forum has noted the value of multi-stakeholder dialogues in advancing the work of the Forum. It has decided that multi-stakeholder dialogues, involving the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21, are to be held at each session, beginning at its second session. It has been suggested that the multi-stakeholder dialogue of each session focus on seeking multi-stakeholder perspectives on the specific agenda items of that session. Accordingly, the multi-stakeholder dialogue at the third session of the Forum will focus on (a) economic aspects of forests, (b) forest health and productivity, and (c) maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2003/2) and addenda containing discussion papers submitted by various major groups (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.__)

(b) Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

At its first session, the Forum decided to develop and maintain contact and to cooperate and make active efforts to develop synergies with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Commission on Sustainable Development and other functional commissions of the Council, as well as other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments.

The Forum may wish to consider approaches for enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2003/__)

Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2003 (E/CN.18/2003/INF/__)

(e) Intersessional work, including further discussion concerning the ad hoc expert groups

In its multi-year programme of work, the Forum recommended the convening of three ad hoc expert groups to support its work on (a) approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting; (b) finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; and (c) consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests.

In informal consultations held during its second session, the Forum discussed the titles, composition, terms of reference, scheduling and reporting of the three ad hoc expert groups but was unable to reach consensus on all points. It agreed to bracket the entire draft negotiating text and to discuss it further in the third session.

The Forum may wish to consider and agree on the manner in which the discussion will be continued.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on intersessional work, including further discussion on the ad hoc expert groups, containing the bracketed draft negotiating text on the ad hoc expert groups (E/CN.18/2003/3)

(f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting

In its decision 2/1, the Forum requested its secretariat to develop a suggested format to serve as a basis for countries to use in reporting to the Forum at its third session on their implementation of the relevant IPF/IFF proposals for action. A reporting format and accompanying guidelines were developed by the secretariat and distributed to member States to assist them in preparing their national reports.

The Forum may wish to provide feedback on the approach and content of the format, and to consider if and how a suggested reporting format would be developed for its fourth session.

In March 2003, a country-led initiative on the theme "Monitoring, assessment and reporting on lessons learned in the assessment of the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action" was held in Viterbo, Italy. A report on the initiative will be made available to the Forum at its third session. In addition, the International Conference on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: The Way Forward was convened in Guatemala City in February 2003, one objective of which was to contribute to the work of the Forum.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on a format for voluntary reporting to the Forum at its third session (E/CN.18/2003/__)

Report on a country-led initiative on the theme "Monitoring, assessment and reporting on lessons learned in the assessment of the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action" (E/CN.18/2003/__)

5. Dates and venue of the fourth session of the Forum

Pursuant to Council decision 2001/218, Geneva is proposed to be the venue of both the third and fourth sessions of the Forum.

The Forum may wish to decide the dates of the fourth session.

6. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum

The Forum may wish to recommend to the Council for adoption the provisional agenda for its fourth session, which will be based upon the multi-year programme of work outlined in Forum resolution 1/1.

7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure, the Forum shall submit to the Council a report on the work of each session.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 22* (E/2001/42/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, sect. B.

[2] Ibid., *2002, Supplement No. 22* (E/2002/42/Rev.1), chap. II, sect. C.